

Washington, D.C. – The House of Representatives today approved legislation including \$57.5 million for transportation projects in the Portland area, an increase of \$12.5 million over the amount approved last week by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.), a senior member of the Committee, secured the funding as part of a six-year \$284 billion package funding the nation's highway and transit projects.

"I'm pleased the House agreed to fund these important Oregon projects that will create jobs, ease congestion and improve the livability of our communities," Blumenauer said. "Many of our region's top transportation priorities will receive funding under this important legislation."

The projects in the transportation funding package for the Portland area include:

**\$11 million for preliminary engineering for a new Columbia River Crossing for transit, freight and vehicles to ease congestion on Interstate-5.**

**\$3 million towards replacement of the Sellwood Bridge.**

**\$4.7 million for street improvements in the Gateway area, as part of the Gateway Urban Renewal District Development Plan to stimulate economic investment in the area.**

**\$12 million for the Port of Portland to add rail capacity in the Rivergate Industrial District and provide congestion relief in North Portland.**

**\$4.7 million for improvements to East Burnside, including a new streetcar line.**

**\$6 million for the first of three phases to Metro's Regional Trails Program for acquisition, preliminary engineering and construction of bike and pedestrian trails.**

**\$4 million for an environmental impact statement for the Sunrise Corridor project to**

**serve the Damascus/Boring area. This area will be a new center for regional employment and housing.**

**\$5 million for safety improvements to Lake Road, a major school route for local school children, between Clackamas Town Center and Milwaukie Regional Center.**

**\$3 million for Stark Street improvements in Rockwood Town Center. This area is dangerous for pedestrians and auto traffic. Gresham officials believe this transportation solution will result in attracting private investment to this economically depressed commercial area.**

**\$1.4 million for construction of a light rail station, bus, bicycle and parking facilities and in support of transit oriented development for Gresham's Civic Neighborhood.**

**\$700,000 for a new bus facility in Sandy.**

The House bill also includes several provisions championed by Blumenauer, including: a new Safe Routes to School program to encourage communities to adopt strategies and fund projects designed to allow children to walk and bike to school safely; and, a new "Small Starts" transit program that would create a \$935 million discretionary fund for streetcar, commuter rail and bus rapid transit projects to receive federal capital funding. The bill also includes needed authorization to expand the Portland streetcar system and for continued work on Portland's light rail system, to complete financing for the IMAX line and for a new line along I-205.

The "Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users" (TEA LU) is the much-awaited legislation to reauthorize federal funding for bikes, transit, pedestrian, bridge and highway projects across the country. The bill must now be considered by the United States Senate.